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VALLEY STAR

Volume 47, Issue No. 44 | Los Angeles Valley College | Van Nuys, California | October 26, 1995

News Notes

Tau Alpha Epsilon presents the second annual children's Halloween Party Oct. 27 from 3 to 8 p.m. in Monarch Hall.

The Earth Science Department presents: **"Fire and Ice:The Geologic Story of mono basin and volcanic tableland north of Bishop, California,"** by professor Angus McDonald, Oct. 31 at noon in MSc 113.

AFT's second annual Halloween Party will be Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. at the home of Gary Honjio. Call ext. 330 for more details.

A workshop called **How To Study** will be held in BSc 10, Nov. 1 from 1 to 3 p.m. or from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call ext. 246.

LAVC Career/Transfer Center **Orientation** will be Nov. 1 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Administration Room 126.

Oct. 26, the **North Wind Ensemble** will perform in the Music Recital Hall at 11 a.m.

"Women In Astronomy," will be presented on Oct. 27 at 8 p.m. at the Planetarium. Financial Aid Ability to Benefit Test will be on Nov. 2 at 1 p.m. in Administration Room 126.

Tau Alpha Epsilon (TAE) meetings are held Mondays in CC 202 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. and from 6 to 7 p.m. in CC 104.

Meetings of the **Armenian Student Association** (ASA) take place every first and third Monday in BSc 103 from noon to 1 p.m.

Valley and the Patrons Association presents the 47th Anniversary Dinner, saluting former ASU Presidents called **"The Early Years: Looking Back."** It will be on Oct. 26 in Monarch Hall starting at 5:30 p.m.

Student-**Registration information for the Spring 96** semester will be mailed out soon. Admissions, Graduation and Transcript offices will be closed on Oct. 27 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The **deadline for filing for Spring 1996 graduation** is Oct. 27 at 4 p.m. Petitions are available in the Graduation Office-Administration Room 127.

Campus creates Advocacy for action

New program provides intervention for disputes

By Adam Adler
Valley Star Staff Writer

There is a new option for students with irreconcilable differences with their instructors, the Student Advocacy Board. The board will appoint an advocate to help students file a formal grievance to be heard by a committee of students, faculty and administrators. Should students have a problem with their instructor that can not be settled, then this provides intervention by the College on the matter.

The Student Advocacy Board is designed for academic disagreements such as grades or an attendance disputes. Things like sexual harassment and discrimination are not eligible for this process because they have separate committees meant to handle them.

Essentially, this is meant for a student or students who feel they have been treated unfairly by an instructor and have not been able to resolve it.

The Student Advocacy Board is being set up by Phil Pearson, the compliance officer at Valley. In addition to being responsible for the Valley College campus, Pearson is also the compliance officer for both Pierce and Mission Colleges, where he is heading identical programs.

It is Pearson's responsibility to train and familiarize the members of the Board for the grievance procedure.

The board requires six advocates and a pool of 15 neutral Hearing Panel Members.

The Student Advocates group consists of two students, two faculty and two administrators. One advocate out of the group will be picked to help the student or students filing the grievance.

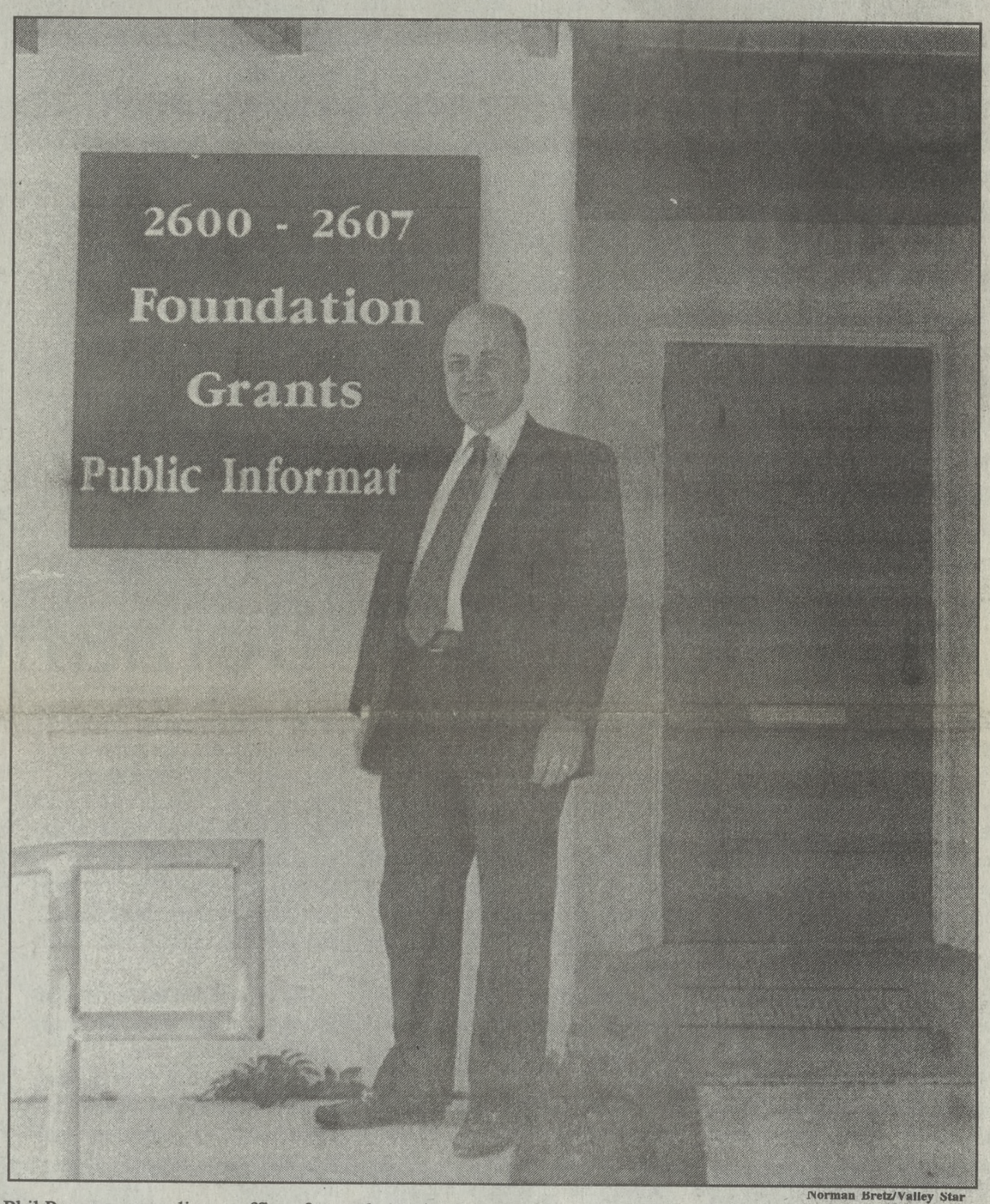
The pool of panel members consists of five students, five faculty and five administrators.

To convene a formal hearing, President Wieder picks two members from each category to serve, except for one administrator. One chair is reserved for President Wieder.

Once a grievance is filed, the chosen advocate works with the party filing to help them with the preparation of their case.

Then they both attend the hearing to present their case. The grievance panel decides the case after hearing both sides and then deliberates.

Once they reach a decision it is given to a panel of administrative officers for review and announced. If the grievance party is dissatisfied they can apply for a appeal.



Norman Bretz/Valley Star

Phil Pearson, compliance officer for student grievance procedures, outside his bungalow at Pierce, Monday.

LACCD ponders utilization of trimester system to ease expected student influx

By Shawn M. Bush
Editor in Chief

Considering the current state of financial ruin within the California educational system, it may seem unlikely the Los Angeles Community College District could offer classes on a trimester schedule. However, this is exactly what has been proposed by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

According to the October AFT newsletter, a group of faculty members met during the summer to discuss "the possible advantages of an alternative calendar."

Also present at the meeting were AFT Guild President, Leon Marzillier and the President of the District Academic Senate, Winston Butler.

The newsletter features three of its four articles on the idea of shifting the current semester schedule to that of a trimester system.

Lindsay Conner, member of the Board of Trustees, offered a formal resolution to the talks. In her statement to the Board of Trustees, Conner directed the Chancellor's office to begin a District Task Force on the Academic Calendar "to explore the possibilities of changing the District academic calendar to a year-round trimester system, or to another similar system (such as a quarter system)."

This new task force was supposed to convene by October 1 but is still being organized.

"I expect to have a group together within the next two weeks," said, Blair Sillers, assistant to the Chancellor.

With a massive amount of students expected to hit the community colleges within the next 10 years, campus populations are set to explode.

Tidal Wave II, as this predicted influx is called, demands more campuses. But the reality of building more institutions is dim.

"The problem in California is so immense it just boggles people's minds," said David Breneman, author of several reports on California's higher education system.

Possibly adding to the rising numbers of students attending community colleges, the California State University Board of Trustees has scheduled a series of hearings which propose the removal of remedial education programs from its universities. If these courses are removed, students wishing to attend California's universities would need to pass classes at one of the state's 100 community colleges.

The AFT newsletter estimates "California will need something like 20 new community colleges in the next 10 years in order to keep up with student demand."

This organization sees the installation of trimesters as one way to accommodate the growing numbers of students at the community college level.

"They (the task force) will be looking at the various aspects and ramifications of implementing a new calendar," said Blair, "There are a lot of factors to consider."

Discussions of creating a new academic schedule were initially visited in 1983, according to Blair. "I'm not sure why nothing came of them," he said.

According to Conner, "Many faculty are intrigued by the possibility of increasing their annual pay.

"It is high time that our profession be compensated at a level comparable to other professions with similar educational requirements.

"If we worked year-round, like those other professions, there is no excuse for our continued relatively low level of compensation."

Blair is unsure when the task force may have some answers.

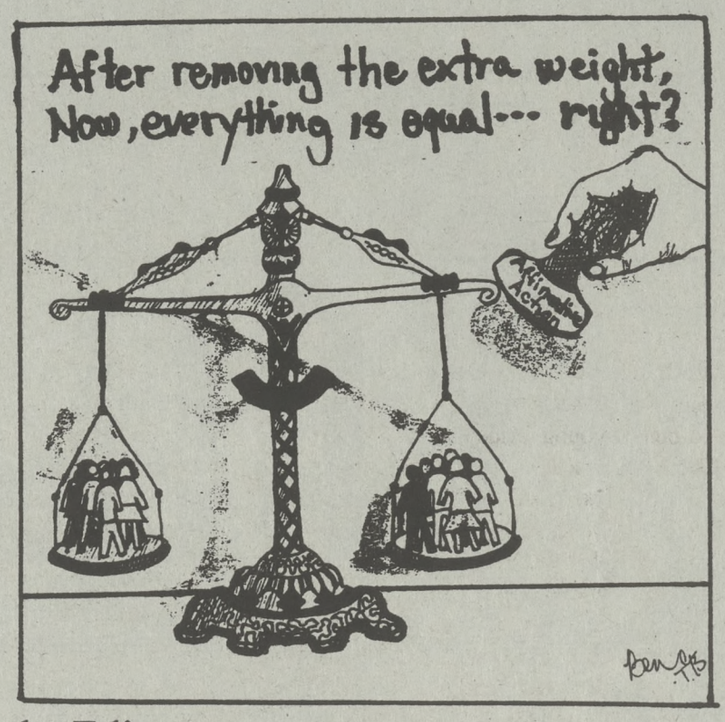
"The problem in California is so immense it just boggles people's minds."

David Breneman
Author on higher education

Opinion Editor's Column
Contributing Ed West

Affirmative Action is legalized discrimination

To me the term Affirmative Action means the government allows special benefits to be made to persons of any race, ethnicity or gender. What makes Affirmative Action affirmative is, that the groups receiving such benefits suffered from discriminations made against them and from which they did not receive the protection granted to them by the Constitution. There is no disputing the fact that Native Americans, African/Americans and all women have been victims of bias, in direct violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees every citizen fair and equal treatment under the law. Over the past thirty years, addendums to the Constitution have been enacted that insure that every citizen of this country is treated fairly and equally. Governmental discrimination no longer exists in our society, either at the federal or state levels. If deprivation because of race or color has stopped, why is it necessary to continue the special benefits allowed by Affirmative Action? Does not the continuance of special benefits create jealousy? Does it not keep racial animosities alive? It is time for all Americans to stand on their own two feet. It is time for every citizen to live in harmony with their neighbors, respecting them and treating them in the same manner in which they would like to be treated. Forget about the inhumanities of the past. It is guaranteed that they will never happen again. President John F. Kennedy's martyrdom on November 22, 1963, became the inspiration for President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society program of social reforms, especially major civil rights legislation. The following excerpt from Kennedy's inaugural speech in 1961 should be the rallying cry for all Americans today. His immortal words, "AND SO MY FELLOW AMERICANS, ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU; ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY," should be the clarion call for every person of every race, color and creed.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Regarding the Oct. 12 editorial entitled "Justice and the O.J. Simpson Case" written by Kit Paraventi. I am not here to argue Simpson's verdict, it's over. Instead, let's discuss what's occurring in this city involving the after verdict. First, there have been too many lines drawn into the sand, and mistrust, anger and blame—yes I said "blame." Everyone, whether connected with the case or not, blamed each other. Nothing came from it but hate, racism and ignorance. It's time for people of all races and ages to come together in this state of crisis. For those of you who are angry at the jury or the defense, take your rage and turn it into something positive. Help causes like domestic violence that make a difference. If you mistrust the LAPD and prosecutor's office, it is understandable, but don't just complain. Get involved in community-based policing; it helps everyone. To conclude: people should not believe the TV show biz hype. Separate the rumors from fact. Try to make this country a better place to live and work.

CHRIS JAMES
Valley Students

Dear Editor,

Wednesday, Oct. 18, there was a celebration for Native American Day in the plaza in front of Monarch Hall. I watched the cultural dances with interest, enjoying the show. Then a Professor, who teaches African/American studies here at valley, gave a speech on the justification for affirmative action. She stated that affirmative action is not a quota system, and that current hiring practices require this compensation. When she had finished, I had comments and was allowed to speak at the podium. My point, not well received by the crowd, was that affirmative action was legalized discrimination. The Professor's response to my objections disturbed me greatly. She stated "Affirmative action is payback time!" when I asked when "payback time" will end, she replied by chanting "payback time will never end—no justice, no peace! No justice, no peace!"

This is a denial of what justice in America is. Our free-enterprise system is based on merit, regardless of race. Separating workers or students is based on merit, regardless of race. Separating workers or students based on race is the opposite of this. It is as if the owner of a fruit tree orchard wanted to sell his or her very best fruit. Out of 50 acres, he or she is limited to chosing fruit from only 5 acres. Maybe these five contain the very best fruit, but maybe they do not. there is no way of knowing. The American way is to open up the field to all 50 acres, and guaranteed of selling his or her top-quality fruit.

CANDICE JACKSON
Valley Students

Jury selection demands reform for justice

OPINION BY HARRIET STEINBERG

Sooner or later, most of us will be called for jury duty. As college students, our first instinct is to dodge the responsibility because of our busy schedules.

The question remains; Is the selection of the jury a just system? For those who are willing to work jury duty into their schedule, is it worth the effort?

How many of us are qualified to make a decision on the very important matter of whether a defendant is guilty or not?

First of all, although prospective jurors take the oath that everything they answer is honest, can we really believe this to be so? If someone wants to be on a case badly enough, he or she may fake some of the answers.

Both attorneys, prosecution and defense question potential jurors to make certain there is no bias.

This seems fair because no one knows who will be chosen from the numbers at random, but lawyers play an important roll in choosing the twelve jurors and alternatives.

Many lawyers choose a jury who he or she thinks will be in the best interest of the case. In the murder trial of State vs. Steinberg, it was noted that the lawyers observed body language, education, and even if the prospective juror had experience in psychology.

In her book, "Death of a Jewish American Princess," author/lawyer, Shirley Frondorf states, regarding this trial, "For the most part, businessmen, professionals, and decision makers were missing."

She then added naive and non-assertive jurors were generally preferred for this case.

We can conclude by these statements that a defense attorney has a great deal of influence in deciding the innocence or guilt of his or her client.

Unfortunately, the jurors ethnic and religious background sometimes play a roll in the decision making process.

Again, this may be done unconsciously, but with people of similar backgrounds, be it cultural, race, or otherwise, there tends to be bias at times.

Is this the kind of system we want in selecting a jury?

How many criminals are walking our streets today because a trial lawyer was manipulative in choosing a jury?

We are putting the life of a defendant in the hands of twelve jurors. We have a fine jury system; perhaps the best in the world, but it's being abused. Godfrey Lehman, the author of "Jury Duty" says many prospective jurors feel serving on the jury is an obligation to dodge, or that it is a boring experience.

Because of the attitude and prejudices that exist, it is not hard to understand why many authorities feel that the selection of the jury, the way it is today in most cases, should be abolished.

D.A. Klotx, an instructor in Administrative of Justice at Los Angeles Valley College expresses the opinion that the judge should be responsible for choosing a jury.

Judge John Harris of the Los Angeles Municipal Court shares the same belief he states that the Legislature pasted the law saying the judge should question the prospective jurors, but not all judges follow this law.

Harris follows this rule and likes it because it speeds up the process.

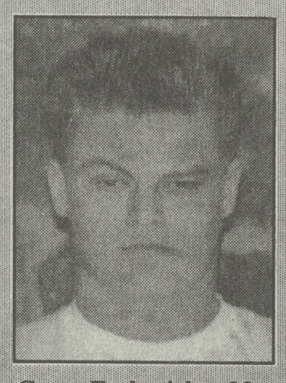
He says, "It takes only about an hour and fifteen minutes for the selection, whereas when the choice is given to the lawyers, it can take a day and a half or more."

Harris also likes this system better because it takes the game playing out of it.

Whether the judge chooses the jury or an elected group voted on by the people, jury selection should be altered.

Do you think Affirmative Action is a form of legalized discrimination?

P. J. Mertz 19,
Major: Business Mgmt.
"It isn't. It was originally needed but isn't in today's society."



Cort Escherich 20,
Major: Accounting
"I think yes, everything should be based on your merit, not on your race."

Mark Acton 28,
Major: Communication
"Yes, it is not fair. You should be judged on what you do, not what race you are."

Tamar Jones 19,
Major: Art
"Yeah it is discrimination. You shouldn't be judged by your race ."

Mary Jo Fernando 24,
Major: Accounting
"It is. Students shouldn't get accepted to college because of their minority. "

Photos/Naomasa Tokuhara

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✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letter must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be dropped at the Valley Star Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

Haunting; more than a tale

By Bristol Mac Donald
Entertainment Editor

Tucked away in the foothills of Chatsworth, a quiet little neighborhood exists. Aged, ranch style homes set back from the narrow dirt roads, rest peaceful and content in the chill of this late October evening.

The people of this secluded community take comfort in its tranquil serenity. The towering trees which line the streets hover over its inhabitants as if protecting them from harm.

Outside, the faint smell of pine wood burning in a nearby fireplace lingers in the air. Occasionally, the silence of the night is broken by the eery howls of neighborhood wolves which serves as a reminder to its residents that the unknown still lurks around every corner even within this peaceful haven.

Approaching the edge of this neighborhood, located at the dead end of a dangerous winding road, the Larson's home looms in the distance. This three story Victorian style structure, originally built in the early 1900's, although remodeled throughout the years, still retains the essence of a period lost in history.

Initially the house appears to be an aberration, but the local residents are quiet aware and assured of its existence. Their awareness is not due to the unique style of the house, but to the mysterious events that took place within the Larson's home exactly 50 years ago on the eve of Halloween.

Some who believe in the after life say the house is haunted, others believe it is a cleverly woven ghost story designed to scare the local children on Halloween, but for the Larsons this haunting tale is very real.

In the small, enclosed patio of their home, Milton Larson and his wife Collette, both in their 80's, sit together holding hands. They smile knowing their story will be shunned by many who hear it.

"It's very strange what happened here. I was never one who believed in spirits, but when something like this happens to you personally, you become a believer," Milton says as Collette nods her head in agreement.

They bought the house shortly after they were married in the early 1940's. "It was perfect. As a young bride this was my dream house. It must of been because we're still here," Collette laughs.

"It was a couple of years later that the house was built next door and the Sullivans moved in with their two young boys. I remember them like it was yesterday," Milton adds shaking his head sadly.

Until the Sullivan family arrived, the Larsons had lived a peaceful life. Milton made a name for himself as a character actor and Collette struggled as a writer. Suddenly their perfect world was shattered with the accidental death of the older Sullivan boy.

"We weren't home when it occurred, but we later found out that the boys had gotten hold of their father's gun and were playing cowboys in our backyard. The younger boy accidentally shot his brother in the back and killed him," Milton says struggling with the words.

Collette interrupts, obviously shaken by the memories, "I hate guns. I always have," she says. Milton moves to get his wife a glass of water and continues to speak from the adjacent kitchen, "The poor boy never knew what hit him. He didn't see the gun being fired."

It was soon after this tragic event that mysterious happenings began occurring around the Larson's home. In the late hours of the night the Larsons remember being awaken by the sound of a child crying. Milton repeatedly roamed the house looking for an intruder with nothing to be found.

"The Sullivans moved only weeks after the accident and our next closest neighbors were about a half a mile away. The noises we began to hear at night were very odd," Collette explains as Milton takes his seat next to her.

The Larsons continued to hear the crying each night and as time went on, footsteps were heard in the house as well as what they describe as a ball bouncing in the back yard. "I'd wake Milton up and tell him we were being robbed," Collette laughs. "We didn't get much sleep in those days," she adds smiling.

The unexplainable events began to take on a new form. The Larsons noticed the swing hanging from an oak tree in their backyard moving by itself, even on the stillest of nights. The lights in the house not only flickered, but would suddenly go on for no apparent reason.

"It began with Mrs. Larson and I coming home and the lights being on in the house. Now we both knew that we had left them off. It was when the lights actually went on during the night and woke us up that Mrs. Larson wanted to move. I thought it was the neighborhood children playing games with us," Milton says.

This went on for over a month. The Larsons called electricians, talked with neighbors and friends, but still there was no explanation for what was tearing their home and life apart. "I stopped telling friends. People looked at me as if I'd lost my mind or they would laugh about ghosts. I would sit in bed at night and cry," Collette remembers.

Collette began packing, insisting they move and start a new life. Milton, refusing to give up, began reading books on the supernatural and eventually made the connection between the death of the Sullivan boy and the strange occurrences they were witnessing.

"The books I read talked about spirits not able to leave this world when there is no definite closure to their lives. Remembering how the Sullivan boy was killed it all began to make sense to me," Milton explains. Collette looks at her husband and pats his hand. "Milton became obsessed with this. He wouldn't stop reading those books," she says waving to the bookshelves lining the far wall. "I would find him out in the backyard asleep in the chair and that damn swing rocking back and forth," she adds.

Milton rises and slowly moves to a chair that faces out toward the backyard. He stares off into the distance and recalls that Halloween night exactly 50 years ago. He methodically explains how he sat in the backyard for hours and spoke to the invisible presence that had entered their lives for a reason Milton had finally come to understand.

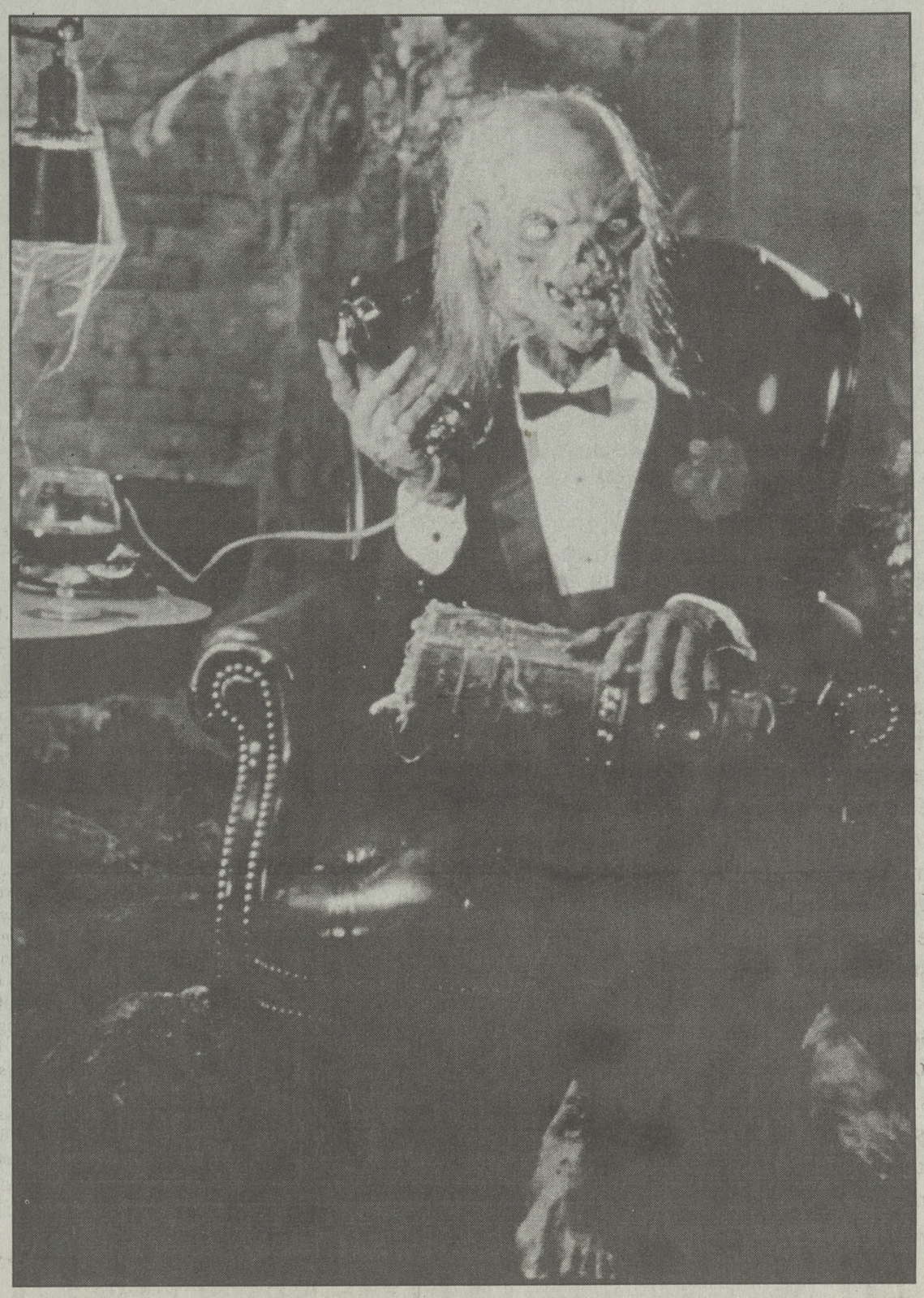
"He told the boy everything about the accident. He explained how he had been killed by his brother and that he had to let go of this life now. It was time," Collette says, tears welling up in her eyes.

From that moment on, peace once again enveloped the Larson home.

The words Milton spoke that night brought the swing to a halt forever.

The Larson's mystery was solved and the spirit of the Sullivan boy finally laid to rest thanks to Milton's relentless search for answers to one of life's many mysteries. Skeptics will go on doubting the unexplainable events that went on within this house some 50 years ago, but for the Larsons the memories of that time stay clearly focused in their minds.

"Halloween is a very special night for us. I will never forget that poor tortured spirit and his beautiful release to his final destination," Milton says softly as he looks out the window to the swing that still remains hanging from the oak tree.



File Photo / Valley Star
The famous emaciated emcee of Tales From The Crypt appears dead-and-in-person in "Knott's Gory Tales," a sinister new stage show making its world premiere in the Chevrolet / Geo Ghoul Time Theatre.

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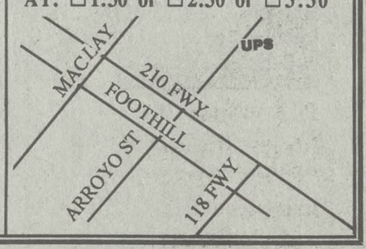

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Unstoppable: Monarch football team seizes number one placement in the nation

By David Helleskov
Asst. News Editor

Prior to the final home game of the season, members of the number one state-ranked Valley football team joined their parents, siblings and relatives at mid-field on Oct. 21 in Monarch stadium.

The families were given red roses by their sons as they dashed confidently on the playing field into the spotlight. Some of the parents traveled from as far as Cincinnati, Ohio to watch the tournament.

Dedicated fans came out to watch the Monarchs battle the Harbor Seahawks. The final outcome was Valley over Harbor by a score of 46-16.

Valley's win and El Camino's loss puts the Monarchs in the number one position in the nation, according to the Junior College Athletic Bureau.

Running Back, Elijah Raphael's 68-yard touchdown run and the hot hands of Wide Receiver, Maurice Bryant put a multitude of points on the scoreboard.

Quarterback Aaron Flowers completed 13 out of 28 passes for 237 yards and three touchdowns.

David Lins replaced Flowers in the fourth quarter who went four out of nine for 28 yards including one scoring pass. Raphael got 13 carries and rushed for 119 yards.

Wide Receiver David Eastham got four receptions for 43 yards and two for touchdowns.

Wide Receiver Kai Chauncey said, "We need to take one game at a time and stick together. Kicker Matt Kohl has done excellent." Middle Linebacker Isaac Diaz added, "There's no reason that we can't get to the Western State Conference (WSC) Championship. We practice like a championship team and need to keep the spirit up."

The defense tacked up three interceptions, two from Linebacker Ryan Venturine and one from Defensive Back Henry Bell. Overall, the Seahawks were held to 272 yards, 138 rushing and 134 passing. Linebacker Troy Tuck helped out the cause with 10 tackles, two assists and caused one fumble.

Venturine got credited with five tackles and four assists to help lead the defense.

Adding on his four receptions, Eastham now has 87 in total and moves into the number two spot on the all-time list, behind last year's leader Brian Comer who has 139.

Eastham has charged into the top 10 list at number 10 with his 1,100 yards on the all-purpose list.

Saying it was a night to honor the sophomores, Monarch's Head Coach Jim Fenwick said, "Harbor has been playing better every week. They put a lot of pressure with their man to man defense. We had patience and executed well. We have to focus on one game at a time and realize that every game is critical."

Mother of Linebacker Brett Nordyke, Deedy Nordyke said, "It's a terrific football program here."

Yell Leader Edward Santos said, "I have never seen a squad like this one. The unity keeps us together and we work really hard."

Cheerleader Mariaelena Miranda gets an all-around view of how the school is and said, "It's a rush to be out there and see the crowd get pumped up. When the fans are livelier, we are more motivated to get up and cheer."

Valley is 7-0 after the victory and has three regular season games to play, all on the road. LA Southwest, Moorpark and Santa Monica are the three stops for the Monarchs on the way to a state championship.

Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero says "it was a very important win towards our overall goal. El Camino lost and if Valley didn't win, we wouldn't be number one in California."

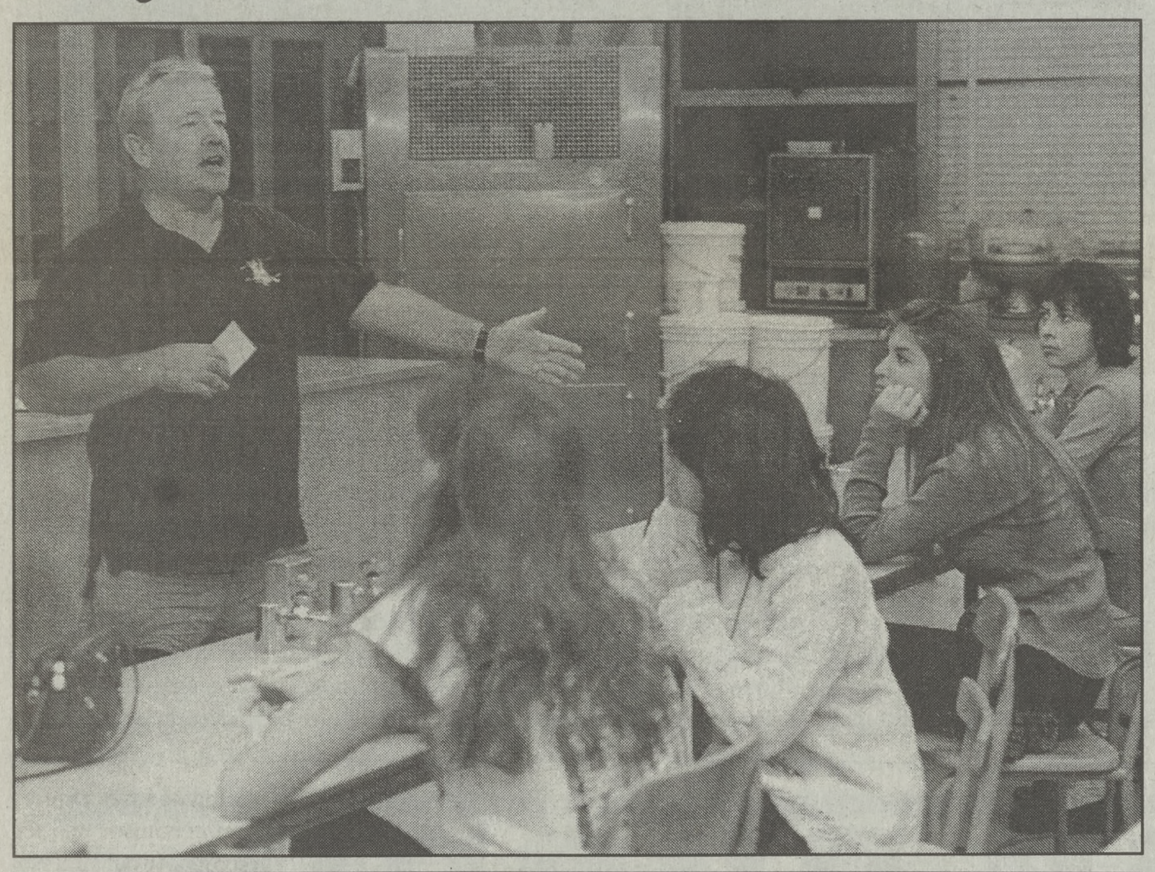
> ***"It was a very important win towards our overall goal. El Camino lost and if Valley didn't win, we wouldn't be number one in California."***
>
> ***- Chuck Ferrero***
> ***Athletic Director***

Valley Baseball player Nathan Wrought commented that if Harbor had a couple more significant offensive drives and some more defensive stops, "the game would have been more interesting."

KVCM Board Operator Daniel Brady said, "After the first quarter, the game was over at that point."

The L.A. Southwest Cougars (1-5) will take the field against the Valley Monarchs for a matinee game at 1 p.m. Oct. 28.

Physical Education offers snow skiing without snow



DorouBoghosian/ValleyStar

Jay Breckell instructs students enrolled in his Physical Education 277, snow skiing skills course. Though these students will never come into contact with snow in the classroom, the group plans various field trips to local mountain skiing resorts.

By Sandra Carranza
Sports Editor

Physical Education 277, a class in snow skiing skills, taught by instructor Jay Breckell, teaches Valley students techniques and skills for beginning, intermediate and advanced skiing. His twenty years of experience makes this class well worth while for students who like to ski.

"Snow skiing is a popular sport among students," said Breckell.

Students taking this class learn different techniques of skiing as well as exercises that help them develop strength and balance for mastering the art of snow skiing, all without visiting the snow.

On a plastic rug, on a sloped ramp, students learn how to lean forward, how to move and how to speed. This is what Breckell calls dry-land skiing exercises.

He teaches them how to use the edges of the skis to make turns, how to slow down their speed and how to walk up a slope by means of the herring-bone technique.

Students also learn from videos and lectures given by guest speakers who come from local sporting good stores.

Breckell also organizes trips to the snow, places like Big Bear, where students ski on the snow and practice what they learned in the classroom.

These trips are at the students' expense, however they are not required for passing the course.

According to Breckell, skiing is an expensive sport.

Students receive credit for attending class, participating in discussions and class activities.

"I just want my students to be safe and more knowledgeable about skiing and get more involved in this wonderful sport."

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Love (with all my heart),
Gina

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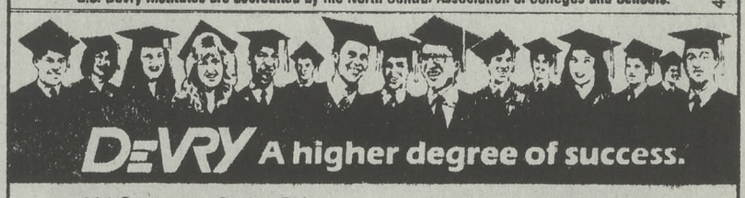
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